

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

January 18, 2006

Gail Acheson
Bureau of Land Management
Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office
690 West Garnet Avenue
P.O. Box 581260
North Palm Springs, CA 92258-1260

Subject: Desert Southwest Transmission Line Project Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) [CEQ# 20050524]

Dear Ms. Acheson:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above referenced document. Our review and comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementation Regulations at 40 CFR 1500-1508, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

In our January 12, 2004, comment letter on the Draft EIS/EIR, we expressed concerns regarding air quality impacts, mitigation measures, and conformity with the applicable State Implementation Plans (SIP). The Final EIS/EIR satisfactorily responds to our concerns by providing updated modeling assumptions and mitigation measures. Based on this updated information, it appears that emissions of criteria pollutants would fall below *de minimis* thresholds and are, therefore, assumed to conform with the SIPs.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this Final EIS/EIR and request a copy of the ROD when it becomes available. If you have any questions, please call me at (415) 972-3988, or have your staff call Jeanne Geselbracht at (415) 972-3853.

Sincerely,

/s/

Duane James, Manager
Environmental Review Office

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cc: Michael Remington, Imperial Irrigation District
Kathy Hsiao, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Mike Laybourn, South Coast Air Quality Management District
John Wohlmuth, Coachella Valley Association of Governments